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# The 1988 Presidential Primary in Missouri

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Published by  
ROY D. BLUNT  
Secretary of State

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STATE OF MISSOURI  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE  
JEFFERSON CITY 65102

Dear Fellow Missourians,

On Tuesday, March 8, 1988, Missouri voters will have their first opportunity to vote in a Presidential Preference Primary. That vote will be significant as the two political parties are required to select their national convention delegates in accordance with the results of the primary.

With the primary, presidential candidates will now find an added reason to campaign in our state, and we will have a greater opportunity to let those candidates know about the issues that are important to us as Missourians. In addition to increased candidate participation, we will also see much greater participation by Missouri voters in the process of selecting presidential nominees.

Missouri has often been a pivotal state in the presidential election process. Missouri's electoral votes have been cast for the winner in all Presidential elections in this century with one exception. In that election, in 1956, Missouri's contest was very close as it often has been. In 1908, William Howard Taft prevailed over William Jennings Bryan by only 629 votes in the entire state, while in the last seven elections Missouri's presidential vote has been nearly parallel to the national results with 1960, 1968, and 1976 being very close races in our state, as they were nationally.

We, in the Secretary of State's office, hope this booklet will be of help to you. It contains answers to many questions that will be asked regarding the primary, select sections of the law itself, and other information concerning events related to the primary. I hope you will actively participate and will encourage your family and friends to register and vote in Missouri's first presidential primary.

If there are any questions or concerns you have with regard to the primary, please do not hesitate to write or call our office in Jefferson City.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roy D. Blunt".

Roy D. Blunt  
Secretary of State

# 1988 Presidential Primary calendar of events

Oct. 1, 1987 Adoption of state party rules (additional signature requirement); Secretary of State must be notified (115.761-2)

**Dec. 8, 1987 Filings open (Secretary of State's office), 8 a.m., second Tuesday in December, 1987 (115.761-1)**

Dec. 29, 1987 First day to submit absentee ballot applications, tenth Tuesday prior to election (115.279-3)

**Jan. 5, 1988 Filings close, 5 p.m., ninth Tuesday prior to election (115.761-1)**

Jan. 8, 1988 Withdrawal deadline, 5 p.m. Friday before eighth Tuesday prior to election (115.761-3)

Jan. 12, 1988 Announcement of candidates by Secretary of State, eighth Tuesday prior to election (115.758)  
Certification of election to local election authorities, eighth Tuesday prior to primary (115.765)

Jan. 26, 1988 First day to vote absentee, sixth Tuesday prior to primary, or within 14 days of certification (115.281-1)

**Feb. 10, 1988 Last day to register for Presidential Primary, fourth Wednesday prior to primary (115.135)**

Mar. 2, 1988 Last day to request absentee ballot by mail or through parent or guardian, 5 p.m., first Wednesday prior to election (115.279-3)

Mar. 7, 1988 Last day to submit absentee application (or vote) in person, 5 p.m., first Monday prior to election (115.279-3)

**Mar. 8, 1988 Presidential Preference Primary election day, second Tuesday in March, 1988 (115.755)**

Mar. 22, 1988 Deadline for local boards of canvassers to announce results second Tuesday after election (115.507-1)

Mar. 24, 1988 Deadline for local results to be delivered to Secretary of State, third Thursday after election (115.507-3)

April 7, 1988 Deadline for Secretary of State to convene State Board of Canvassers, two weeks after receiving local abstracts (115.511)

# The 1988 Presidential Primary in Missouri

## *Frequently asked questions about the primary*

**Q.** I'm not a registered "Republican" or "Democrat". How can I vote in the presidential primary?

**A.** Just as in August, it will be an open primary—the voter simply announces at the polls which ballot he or she wishes to receive. Missouri does not have party registration.

**Q.** When is the presidential primary and when is the deadline for registering to vote in it?

**A.** The presidential primary will be March 8, 1988. The deadline to register will be the fourth Wednesday prior to the election (February 10) by 5 p.m. at a site designated by each local election authority.

**Q.** May anyone run for President? How?

**A.** Anyone who meets the requirements in the United States Constitution may file in Missouri to seek the office of U.S. President.

The filing is made in the Office of the Secretary of State and must include a receipt for \$1,000 from one of the two party state committees. (Persons unable to pay may substitute petitions containing 1,000 signatures of registered voters from each of the 9 congressional districts.)

**Q.** What does the winner of the Missouri presidential primary receive?

**A.** Delegates to his or her party's national convention, roughly according to the percentage of popular vote received in a particular congressional district or in the state as a whole.

**Q.** I have always been active in my party. Will we still have caucuses or district and state conventions to select national delegates and conduct party business?

**A.** Yes, just as always, but now provisions exist to be sure the votes of national convention delegates reflect the popular preferential vote.

**Q.** When and where do presidential candidates file to be on the 1988 Missouri presidential primary ballot?

**A.** Between 8 a.m. on December 8, 1987, and 5 p.m. January 5, 1988, in the Office of the Secretary of State in Jefferson City.

**Q.** May candidates withdraw? When?

**A.** Yes, by filing a written, sworn statement by 5 p.m. on January 8, 1988, in the Secretary of State's office. (Filing fees will not be refunded.)

**Q.** What are some of the other duties of the Secretary of State related to the presidential primary?

**A.** The Secretary of State "certifies" the list of candidates to the local election authorities (he will do that on January 12, 1988) and he canvasses the results.

**Q.** Is the canvass important?

**A.** Yes. Based on the official canvass, the Secretary of State notifies the two party chairmen of the number and proportion of total votes received by each listed candidate (and any uncommitted votes). He gives this information both by congressional district and for the whole state.

**Q.** So the parties select national delegates from each congressional district and at a state-wide convention (at-large) to reflect the people's vote in the March 8 election?

**A.** Yes. Three-fourths of the delegates come from congressional district conventions and one-fourth from the party's state-wide convention. For purposes of delegate allocation, uncommitted votes are treated as a separate presidential candidate. Minor candidates' votes also may count toward the uncommitted portion if the total percentage reached by all candidates exceeds 15 percent of the total number of votes cast.

Extra or "bonus" delegates (RSMo 115.776.2) may be allowed by national party rules in some circumstances (for example, in recognition that a state has carried for or elected certain candidates of that party). These "bonus" state delegates are for state-wide

## Questions—Continued

allocation and do not count against the lawful ratio (3/4 from congressional districts, 1/4 from the state-wide convention) of ordinary delegates, i.e. those to which the state would be entitled to in any case.

**Q.** Do candidates for national delegate “commit” themselves to a particular presidential candidate?

**A.** Yes, they make a public designation and “at-large” (state-wide) delegates are chosen from lists or “slates” committed to their candidates (or uncommitted) in the order listed and according to the proportion their candidate has earned in the popular vote (115.776-7).

**Q.** Are delegates bound to vote at the national conventions as they design-  
ated and were elected?

**A.** Yes, basically they are bound to vote for their designated presidential candidate for two ballots unless either released by the candidate or if their candidate receives fewer than 15 percent of the first ballot votes.

**Q.** Can’t national party rules affect the state’s way of handling the nomination process?

**A.** Yes, and our law even says national party rules prevail if in conflict with state law.

**Q.** Do candidates for national delegate file with the Secretary of State?

**A.** No. Their actions to become elected as national delegates are to be provided by party rules.

## The Presidential Primary and Party Meetings are both important

Candidates for President  
File with the Secretary of State



Presidential Primary Election, March 8, 1988



Secretary of State certifies Presidential Primary results to both parties.  
%’s “bind” national delegates; parties select delegates.

PARTY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Select 3/4 of national delegates\*

County, ward, or township caucuses (Party)

PARTY STATE-WIDE CONVENTION

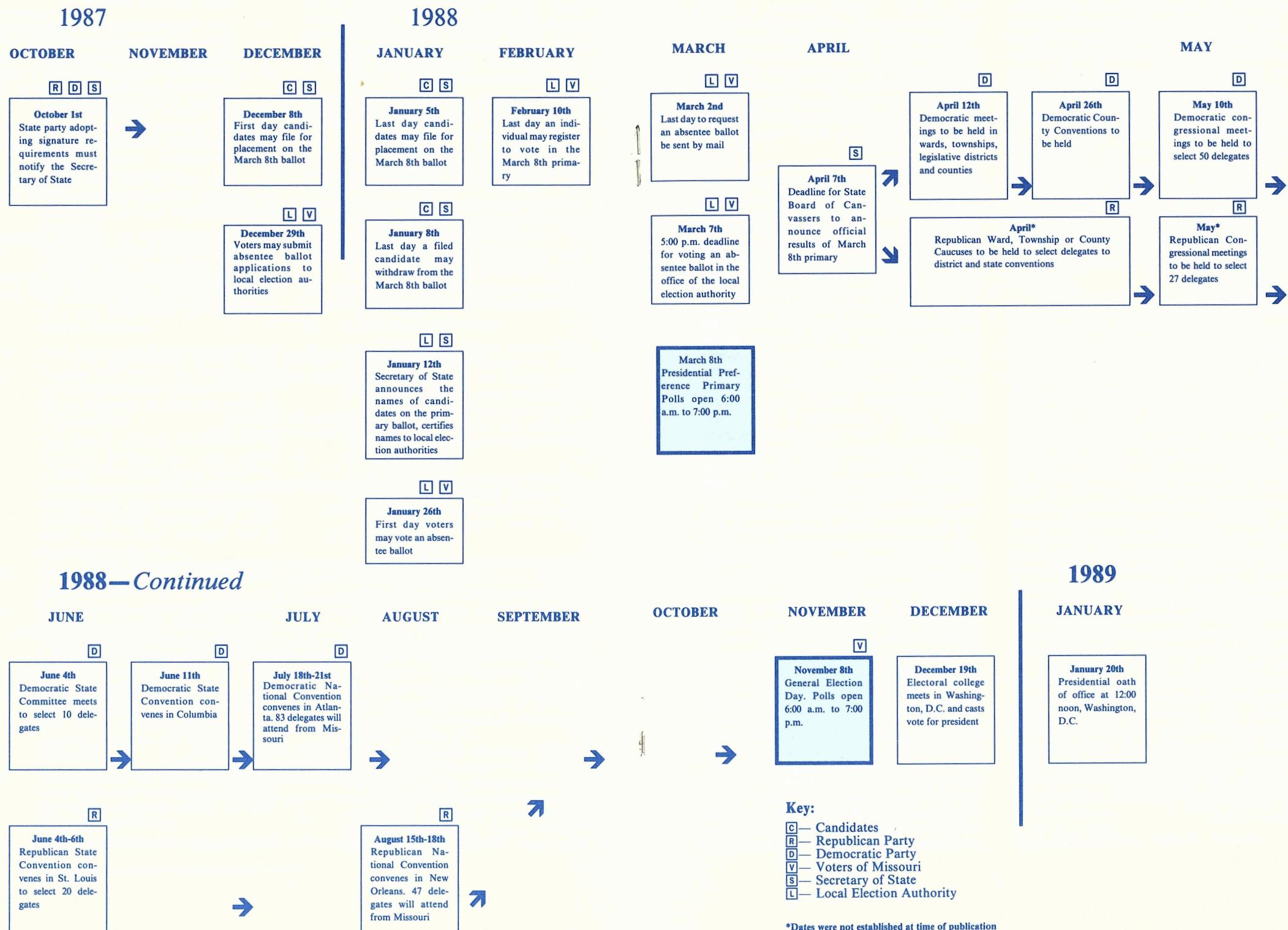
Selects 1/4 of national delegates\*

PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTIONS  
NOMINATE PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Election of new President and Vice President, November 8, 1988

\*“Bonus” delegates are selected according to party rules (115.776-2)

# MISSOURI'S PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION PROCESS



# CHAPTER 115, RSMo 1986

The following are the most important sections of Chapter 115 which deal with the presidential preference primary in Missouri.

**115.755. Presidential primary to be held, when.**—A statewide presidential preference primary shall be held on the second Tuesday in March, 1988.

(L. 1986 H.B. 879 §2)

Expires 12-31-88

**115.758. Official candidates announced, when.**—On or before the eighth Tuesday prior to the presidential preference primary, the secretary of state shall announce the official list of presidential candidates for each established political party as provided in section 115.761.

(L. 1986 H.B. 879 §3)

Expires 12-31-88

**115.761. Candidate filing requirements—fee paid to state committee—inability to pay fee procedure—striking name from ballot, procedure.**—1. The official list of presidential candidates for each established political party shall include the names of all constitutionally qualified candidates who meet all of the requirements specified in the rules of the state or national party organization of each established political party for whom, on or after 8 a.m. on the second Tuesday in December in the year preceding the presidential primary, and on or before 5 p.m. on the ninth Tuesday prior to the presidential primary, a written request to be included on the presidential primary ballot is filed with the secretary of state . . . .

(L. 1986 H.B. 879 §4)

Expires 12-31-88

**115.765. Ballots prepared from certified list sent by secretary of state, when.**—On or before the eighth Tuesday prior to a presidential preference primary election, the secretary of state shall transmit to each county clerk, or other person whose duty is to prepare ballots for an election for a state office, a certified list containing the names of each candidate whose name shall appear on the presidential preference primary ballot of each party.

(L. 1986 H.B. 879 §5)

Expires 12-31-88

**115.767. Ballot content—listing to**

**include uncommitted vote.**—Each county clerk, or other person whose duty is to prepare ballots for an election for a state office, shall cause the name of candidates certified by the secretary of state to appear on the presidential preference primary ballot of each party along with a listing for an uncommitted vote.

(L. 1986 H.B. 879 §6)

Expires 12-31-88

**115.770. Election procedure to conform to primary elections for state officers—ballot form.**—The conduct of the presidential preference primary election and the count and canvass of the votes cast therein shall conform as nearly as is practicable to that prescribed for the conduct of the primary election for state officers. All primary election laws not inconsistent with the provisions of sections 115.750 to 115.785 shall be applicable to the conduct of this election, and the form of the ballot insofar as is practicable shall be substantially as that prescribed by section 115.395.

(L. 1986 H.B. 879 §7)

Expires 12-31-88

**115.773. Vote count notification to state party chairman.**—After the count and canvass of the votes cast, the secretary of state shall notify the state chairman of each of the established political parties for whom a candidate was listed, of the number of votes and the proportion of the total number of votes recorded in that established political party's primary that each candidate and uncommitted listing received in each congressional district individually and in the state at-large.

(L. 1986 H.B. 879 §8)

Expires 12-31-88

**115.776. National convention delegates and alternates, selection.**—1. The state party organization which is the state organization recognized by the national organization of that established political party shall, after the primary and before the national convention, conduct a series of caucuses culminating in congressional and state conventions. Delegates to the national conventions shall be chosen at the congressional district and state conventions pursuant to rules established by the political parties; provided, however, that rules so established

require that national delegates be pledged to support presidential candidates as provided by sections 115.123, 115.625, and 115.750 to 115.785. The delegates and alternates shall be selected as provided in this section; except that, if the rules of the national committee of the established political party are in conflict with the provisions of this section, then the national committee rules shall govern the selection of delegates where in conflict with this section.

2. Not less than three-fourths of the convention delegates from the state to the national convention shall be allocated equally to the state congressional districts. Those delegates not allotted to congressional districts must be allotted to the state as at-large delegates. Additional at-large delegates allocated to a state under national party rules shall not be included in the calculation of the proportion of the state's delegates allocated to congressional districts and at-large.

3. Following the state presidential primary, anyone seeking to be selected as national convention delegate or alternate must designate whether or not he is committed, and, if committed, to which candidate he is committed.

4. To qualify as a delegate from a congressional district, a person must be a registered voter of the congressional district from which he seeks to be a delegate. To qualify as an at-large delegate, a person must be a registered voter of this state.

5. If a delegate or alternate dies, withdraws or becomes disqualified after he has been selected and before the national convention for which he is selected has begun, he shall be replaced by a qualified person committed to the same preference and selected by the party's congressional district committee or state committee, as the case may be.

6. Congressional district delegates and alternates shall be selected so that the proportion of the total district delegates and alternates that are committed to each candidate or are uncommitted equals as nearly as possible the proportion of the popular vote cast in the presidential primary selection in that district for each candidate and for the uncommitted position; except that votes for a candidate or for the uncommitted position which total less than fifteen percent of the

district total shall be counted as uncommitted in determining proportions of district delegates awarded if the sum of all such votes exceeds fifteen percent of the district total.

7. At-large delegates and alternates shall be selected in numerical order from each slate so that the proportion of the total at-large delegates and alternates that is uncommitted or committed to each candidate equals as nearly as possible the proportion of the popular vote for that established political party that was cast as uncommitted and for each candidate in the state at large; except that, votes for a candidate or uncommitted listing that total less than fifteen percent of the total shall be counted as uncommitted in determining proportions of district delegates awarded if the sum of all such votes exceeds fifteen percent of the state total.

8. In determining the number of delegates and alternates to be awarded to each candidate and as the uncommitted delegates and alternates, the percentage of the vote received by each candidate and the percentage of the uncommitted vote in each congressional district or the state at large, as the case may be, shall be multiplied by the total number of delegates allotted to the congressional district or the state at large, as the case may be. The product arrived at for each candidate or the uncommitted vote shall be rounded off to the nearest whole number to arrive at the number of delegates to be awarded to a particular candidate or the uncommitted vote. The percentage of the vote received by each candidate and for uncommitted shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this section and shall not take into consideration the votes for any candidate or uncommitted listing that total less than fifteen percent of the district total or the state at large, as the case may be.

9. The delegates and alternates shall be selected and allocated as provided in this section; except that, if the rules of the national committee of the established political party are in conflict with the provisions of this section, then the national committee rules shall govern the selection and allocation of delegates where in conflict with this section.

(L. 1986 H.B. 879 §9)  
Expires 12-31-88

**115.780. Delegates bound for two ballots, exceptions—pledge requirements.—**

1. Each national convention delegate and alternate shall be bound to vote for the candidate for whom he designated commitment, if any, when he was selected as a delegate or alternate until that or another candidate received the party's nomination, two ballots have been taken or that candidate withdraws, suspends his campaign, releases his delegates, or receives less than fifteen percent of the votes cast on the first ballot, whichever first occurs.

2. Each delegate and alternate, within ten days after accepting selection as a delegate or alternate, shall file with the secretary of state his sworn pledge that he will abide by the provisions of sections 115.750 to 115.785.

3. If the rules of the national committee of an established political party prohibit any delegate from being bound to cast his or her vote for a candidate, then the provisions of the national committee rules shall govern.

(L. 1986 H.B. 879 §10)

Expires 12-31-88

## **STATES HOLDING PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES ON MARCH 8, 1988**

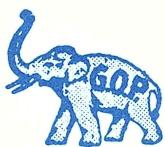
STATE	REPUBLICAN DELEGATES*	DEMOCRATIC DELEGATES*
ALABAMA	38	56
AMERICA SAMOA	NA	3
ARKANSAS	27	38
FLORIDA	82	136
GEORGIA	48	77
HAWAII	NA	20
IDAHO	NA	18
KENTUCKY	38	55
LOUISIANA	41	63
MARYLAND	41	67
MASSACHUSETTS	52	98
MISSISSIPPI	31	40
MISSOURI	47	83
NEVADA	NA	16
NORTH CAROLINA	54	82
OKLAHOMA	36	46
RHODE ISLAND	21	22
TENNESSEE	45	70
TEXAS	111	183
VIRGINIA	50**	75
WASHINGTON STATE	NA	65

\* Subject to change

\*\* Non-binding



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